

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-15, 21-25, 27-33, and 35-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been cancelled.

**1. Reasons why the rejections under § 112 should be withdrawn**

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. under § 112, second paragraph as failing to distinctly claim the present invention. As suggested by the Examiner, dependence of claim 9 has been changed to claim 7. Accordingly withdrawal of the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

**2. Reasons why the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6 should be withdrawn**

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,340,388 to Earle. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the delay between the first and second clock signals as being caused by an inverter circuit with a fanout of at least two. Such a feature is neither shown nor suggested by Earle. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

**3. The rejections of claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 are now moot**

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,466,960 to Winters ("Winters") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,033 to Jouppi ("Jouppi") and U.S. Patent No. 4,667,303 to Pfennings ("Pfennings"). These claims have been cancelled and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot.

Applicant: Thomas D. FLETCHER  
Serial No. 09/893,868  
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#### 4. Conclusion

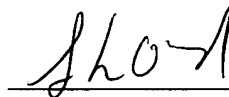
Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and favorable action in connection with this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4310 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenyon & Kenyon LLP

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By:



Shawn W. O'Dowd  
Registration No. 34,687  
(Attorney for Intel Corporation)

KENYON & KENYON  
1500 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Ph.: (202) 220-4200  
Fax.: (202) 220-4201  
DC1-643075